

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. In a client device, a method of operation comprising:
2 receiving from a remote server a distribution collection of sub-menu items for
3 a menu item;
4 determining whether one or more of the sub-menu items of said distribution
5 collection are not part of an operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu
6 item;
7 updating the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item; and
8 changing an operational visual representation of the menu item from a first
9 state to a second state to convey to a user of the client device that new sub-menu
10 items have been added to the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu
11 item.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said updating of the operational collection of
2 sub-menu items of the menu item comprises adding said one or more of the sub-
3 menu items of said distribution collection that are not part of said operational
4 collection of sub-menu items of the menu item to the operational collection of sub-
5 menu items of the menu item.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said first state of the operational visual
2 representation of the menu item comprises a description of the menu item, and said
3 changing of the operational visual representation of the menu item from the first
4 state to the second state comprises changing said operational visual representation
5 of the menu item comprising said description of the menu item to an operational

6 visual representation of the menu item comprising said description of the menu item
7 annotated with an indication that one or more sub-menu items have been added to
8 the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises responsive to
2 an occurrence of a predetermined condition, changing said operational visual
3 representation of the menu item from said second state back to said first state.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said predetermined condition comprises a
2 user having selected a predetermined number of the one or more added sub-menu
3 items.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said menu item corresponds to a family of
2 program products, said sub-menu items correspond to program products of the
3 family, and said one or more sub-menu items that are not part of the operational
4 collection of sub-menu items of the menu item correspond to newly available
5 program products of the family or newly available versions of the program products
6 of the family.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the family of product products is 3D
2 computer games, and each of the program products is a 3D computer game.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said menu item corresponds to a family of
2 media contents, said sub-menu items correspond to media contents of the family,
3 and said one or more sub-menu items that are not part of the operational collection

4 of sub-menu items of the menu item correspond to newly available media contents
5 of the family or newly available versions of the media contents of the family.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the family of media contents is a bulletin
2 board of information postings, and each of media contents is an information posting.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein said menu item corresponds to a family of
2 documents, said sub-menu items correspond to documents of the family, and said
3 one or more sub-menu items that are not part of the operational collection of sub-
4 menu items of the menu item correspond to newly available documents of the family
5 or newly available versions of the documents of the family.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein one or more sub-menu items comprise
2 locators identifying locations from which resources to which the one or sub-menu
3 items correspond can be retrieved.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said locations are disposed within a local
2 file subsystem, and the method further comprises receiving said resources into said
3 locations of said file subsystem from a selected one of said remote server or an
4 agent of said remote server.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein said resources comprise selected ones of
2 executable, text files and web pages.

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1 14. An apparatus comprising:
2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions
3 designed to implement a menu management function, when executed, enables the
4 apparatus to
5 receive from a remote server a distribution collection of sub-menu items
6 for a menu item,
7 determine whether one or more of the sub-menu items of said distribution
8 collection are not part of an operational collection of sub-menu items
9 of the menu item,
10 update the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item,
11 and
12 change an operational visual representation of the menu item from a first
13 state to a second state to convey to a user of the client device that
14 new sub-menu items have been added to the operational collection of
15 sub-menu items of the menu item; and
16 at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the
17 programming instructions.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said menu management function enables
2 said apparatus to update the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu
3 item by adding said one or more of the sub-menu items of said distribution collection
4 that are not part of said operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item
5 to the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said first state of the operational visual
2 representation of the menu item comprises a description of the menu item, and said

3 menu management function enables said apparatus to change the operational
4 visual representation of the menu item from the first state to the second state by
5 changing said operational visual representation of the menu item comprising said
6 description of the menu item to an operational visual representation of the menu
7 item comprising said description of the menu item annotated with an indication that
8 one or more sub-menu items have been added to the operational collection of sub-
9 menu items of the menu item.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said menu management function further
2 enables said apparatus to change said operational visual representation of the
3 menu item from said second state back to said first state, responsive to an
4 occurrence of a predetermined condition.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said menu item corresponds to a family
2 of program products, said sub-menu items correspond to program products of the
3 family, and said one or more sub-menu items that are not part of the operational
4 collection of sub-menu items of the menu item correspond to newly available
5 program products of the family or newly available versions of the program products
6 of the family.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said menu item corresponds to a family
2 of media contents, said sub-menu items correspond to media contents of the family,
3 and said one or more sub-menu items that are not part of the operational collection
4 of sub-menu items of the menu item correspond to newly available media contents
5 of the family or newly available versions of the media contents of the family.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said menu item corresponds to a family
2 of documents, said sub-menu items correspond to documents of the family, and
3 said one or more sub-menu items that are not part of the operational collection of
4 sub-menu items of the menu item correspond to newly available documents of the
5 family or newly available versions of the documents of the family.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein one or more sub-menu items comprise
2 locators identifying locations from which resources to which the one or sub-menu
3 items correspond can be retrieved.

1 22. A method comprising:
2 installing a first version of a first resource on an apparatus;
3 installing also on said apparatus a first sub-menu item corresponding to the
4 first version of the first resource; and
5 installing further on said apparatus an agent to facilitate subsequent installing
6 on said apparatus a second sub-menu item corresponding to a selected one of a
7 second version of the first resource and a third version of a second resource, and to
8 facilitate modification of a visual representation of a menu item of said apparatus to
9 which the sub-menu items are members, to draw an user's attention to said second
10 sub-menu item.

1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein said agent facilitates modification of said
2 visual representation of said menu item of said apparatus to which the sub-menu
3 items are members by facilitating modification of said visual representation of said
4 menu item from a first state to a second state, and said agent further facilitates

5 restoration of said visual representation of said menu item back to said first state
6 responsive to an occurrence of a pre-determined condition.

1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein said resource is a selected one of an
2 executable and a media content.

1 25. An apparatus comprising:
2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions,
3 when executed,
4 install a first version of a first resource on said apparatus,
5 install within a menu hierarchy of said apparatus a first sub-menu item
6 corresponding to the first version of the first resource, and
7 install an agent on said apparatus to facilitate subsequent installation of a
8 second sub-menu item corresponding to a selected one of a second
9 version of the first resource and a third version of a second resource,
10 and to facilitate modification of a visual representation of a menu item
11 of said menu hierarchy to which the sub-menu items are members, to
12 draw an user's attention to said second sub-menu item; and
13 at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the
14 programming instructions.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said agent facilitates modification of said
2 visual representation of said menu item to which the sub-menu items are members
3 by facilitating modification of said visual representation of said menu item from a first
4 state to a second state, and said agent further facilitates restoration of said visual

5 representation of said menu item back to said first state responsive to an
6 occurrence of a pre-determined condition.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said resource is a selected one of an
2 executable and a media content.

1 28. A server apparatus comprising:
2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions,
3 when executed,
4 install a first version of a first resource on a client apparatus,
5 install within a menu hierarchy of said client apparatus a first sub-menu
6 item corresponding to the first version of the first resource, and
7 install an agent on said client apparatus to facilitate subsequent
8 installation of a second sub-menu item corresponding to a selected
9 one of a second version of the first resource and a third version of a
10 second resource, and to facilitate modification of a visual
11 representation of a menu item of said menu hierarchy to which the
12 sub-menu items are members, to draw an user's attention to said
13 second sub-menu item; and
14 at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the
15 programming instructions.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said agent facilitates modification of said
2 visual representation of said menu item to which the sub-menu items are members
3 by facilitating modification of said visual representation of said menu item from a first
4 state to a second state, and said agent further facilitates restoration of said visual

5 representation of said menu item back to said first state responsive to an
6 occurrence of a pre-determined condition.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said resource is a selected one of an
2 executable and a media content.

1 31. A method comprising:
2 installing a first version of a first game software on an apparatus;
3 installing also on said apparatus a first sub-menu item corresponding to the
4 first version of the first game software; and
5 installing further on said apparatus an agent to facilitate subsequent installing
6 on said apparatus a second sub-menu item corresponding to a selected one of a
7 second version of the first game software and a third version of a second game
8 software, and to facilitate modification of a visual representation of a menu item to
9 which the sub-menu items are members, to draw an user's attention to said second
10 sub-menu item.

1 32. The method of claim 31, wherein said agent facilitates modification of said
2 visual representation of said menu item to which the sub-menu items are members
3 by facilitating modification of said visual representation of said menu item from a first
4 state to a second state, and said agent further facilitates restoration of said visual
5 representation of said menu item back to said first state responsive to an
6 occurrence of a pre-determined condition.

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1 33. An apparatus comprising:
2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions,
3 when executed,
4 install a first version of a first game software on said apparatus,
5 install within a menu hierarchy of said apparatus a first sub-menu item
6 corresponding to the first version of the first game software, and
7 install an agent on said apparatus to facilitate subsequent installation of a
8 second sub-menu item corresponding to a selected one of a second
9 version of the first game software and a third version of a second
10 game software, and to facilitate modification of a visual representation
11 of a menu item of said menu hierarchy to which the sub-menu items
12 are members, to draw an user's attention to said second sub-menu
13 item; and
14 at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the
15 programming instructions.

1 34. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein said agent facilitates modification of said
2 visual representation of said menu item to which the sub-menu items are members
3 by facilitating modification of said visual representation of said menu item from a first
4 state to a second state, and said agent further facilitates restoration of said visual
5 representation of said menu item back to said first state responsive to an
6 occurrence of a pre-determined condition.

1 35. A server apparatus comprising:
2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions,
3 when executed,

4 install a first version of a first game software on a client apparatus,
5 install within a menu hierarchy of said client apparatus a first sub-menu
6 item corresponding to the first version of the first game software, and
7 install an agent on said client apparatus to facilitate subsequent
8 installation of a second sub-menu item corresponding to a selected
9 one of a second version of the first game software and a third version
10 of a second game software, and to facilitate modification of a visual
11 representation of a menu item of said menu hierarchy to which the
12 sub-menu items are members, to draw an user's attention to said
13 second sub-menu item; and
14 at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the
15 programming instructions.

1 36. The server apparatus of claim 35, wherein said agent facilitates modification
2 of said visual representation of said menu item to which the sub-menu items are
3 members by facilitating modification of said visual representation of said menu item
4 from a first state to a second state, and said agent further facilitates restoration of
5 said visual representation of said menu item back to said first state responsive to an
6 occurrence of a pre-determined condition.